ROTHBURY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE

Year ending December 31st, 1909.

Rothbury:

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ROTHBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1909.

ROTHBURY,
February 18th, 1910.

COLONEL ORDE AND GENTLEMEN,

Permit me to present for your acceptance, this, my fourteenth Annual Report to your Council.

There were 96 Births registered during the year 1909. There were registered 50 males and 46 females. Estimating the population at the middle of the year to have been 4,780, then the birth rate is 20·1 per 1,000 of the population, as against your average of 21·4 with 111 births per annum. This is your lowest for the last ten years. That for England and Wales is 25.6

The births were registered as follows: during the first quarter, 21; the second, 22; the third, 23; and the last, 30. The Rural part of Rothbury Parish shows the most marked falling off, viz., from an average of 31 to only 22. Doubtless, this is in part due to the completion of the waterworks at Fontburn, and families leaving there. Alwinton shows the next falling off, viz., from 18 to 13. Alnham and Brinkburn show an increase. There were four illegitimate births, all of which lived.

The Deaths during the year numbered 59, which is at a rate of 12·3 per 1,000 per annum; but of these, five were visitors and did not belong to the district. Deducting these,

there were only 54 residents, and this is at the low rate of only 11·3, which is very satisfactory and is your lowest for ten years. That for England and Wales is, for Rural districts, 14.5 Your previous average was 13·9.

Referring to the residents, 31 were males and 23 females; and they occurred: during the month of January, 8; February, 2; March, 11; April, 5; May, 5; June, 2; July, 3; August, 5; September, 3; October, 1; November, 7; and December, 2.

As there were registered 96 births in the district, with 54 deaths during the year, the difference of 42 was the total added to the population naturally, during the same period. This is a rate of 8·7 per 1,000. Your average being 10·0, while that for England and Wales is about 12·0.

Out of the 96 births, it appears four died before attaining the age of one year, and hence in infancy. This is at a low rate of infantile mortality of only 41·6, against your average of 90 per 1,000 born. While that for England and Wales is 98 None of these were of the illegitimate births.

These 54 deaths occurred in the following age periods, viz.:—under one year, 4; from one to five, 8; from five to fifteen, 3; fifteen to 25, 1; 25 to 65, 14; and above that, 29. Of these latter, eight were from 65 to 70 years of age, eleven were from 70 to 80, and ten were above 80 years of age; the oldest being a female, aged 87 years.

The following table records the number of deaths that occurred in each of the ecclesiastical parishes in your district, or such parts of them as are so, and beside these numbers, the death rate per 1,000, calculated upon their populations.

	Deaths.	Rate.		Deaths.	Rate.
Rothbury (Rural part of Parish)	16	12 0	Alnham and Brinkburn	7	19·0
Alwinton	11	12 6	Cambo and Elsdon ...	5	8·6
Whittingham	10	12 8	Longhorsley and Netherwitton ...	3	7 5
Long Framlington.. ...	3	6 1			

As the rate for the entire district was 11·3, it follows that Alnham and Brinkburn was the heaviest with 19·0, Whittingham next with 12·0, whilst Long Framlington was the best with only 6·1.

Under the class of Notifiable Infectious Diseases (Zymotic) there were no deaths, which is exceedingly satisfactory. That for England and Wales being 0·80

Other chief causes of death were as follows:—**Epidemic Influenza**, two adults; **Gastritis**, two adults; **Phthisis**, five; being at a rate of 1·05, while your average for the last 22 years was 1·44 per 1,000 of the population; that for England and Wales is about 1·2. Other **Tubercular diseases** caused the death of a child, aged five, at Lorbottle, from Tubercular Meningitis. **Cancer** caused six deaths. Your average for the last ten years being four. **Bronchitis** caused three, one was a child, aged eight months; the others, both over 65 years of age. **Premature Birth** accounted for three. **Heart Diseases** seven, against the average of ten; and from all other causes not enumerated, seven.

Epidemic Influenza kept recurring throughout the year, affecting the attendance of the children at the schools, especially Alnham; and in part, Netherton and Holystone. It caused the deaths of two adults, each being over 65 years of age. The **Accidents** were: the crushing of a man to death by a cart near Whittingham; the other, the perishing of an adult female in a snow storm near Ritton. The **Suicide** was due to hanging, a man living at Holystone.

The **Strangers** or non-residents, of which there were five who died in the district, two died of Phthisis, who each came into the district with their fatal illnesses upon them. One died at Long Framlington, who belonged to Alnwick, this house being disinfected by your Surveyor; the other belonged to Blyth and died at Whittingham; here all was disinfected also. A woman died with ulcer of the stomach at

Ritton White House, who belonged to Alnwick and came for her health. An adult female, suffering from heart disease, came to Thropton and died there. A tramp died from exposure on Barrow Moor.

Enquiries were held by the Coroner on this last, and on the two accident, and suicide mentioned above.

Under the class of Infectious Diseases (Zymotic), there were notified in all 23 cases, including the following: Diphtheria, 8; Erysipelas, 4; Scarlet Fever, 9; and 2 of Phthisis, in Poor Law medical practice, such cases now being compulsorily notifiable. I am glad to say none of the first three groups ended fatally, but one of the Phthisis did so terminate. **Diphtheria** occurred in three separate outbreaks, the first at Little Ryle on January 11th. It began in a little girl who was on a visit to Alnwick and took ill the night of her return home, and gradually spread through the family, five in all being affected. On inspecting, there was little wrong with this cottage, but at the farm and cottages the water supply was too far off, and was brought nearer, also better drainage was provided and minor unsanitary conditions rectified. Antitoxaine was used, disinfectants, and isolation as far as possible; it did not extend to any other families. Thirty years ago I am told it broke out here badly. At Low Barton, it broke out about December 21st. It was not severe, but a brother also took it. On inspecting, there were no unsanitary conditions; disinfectants and isolation being employed. It is probable that it was contracted at Glanton; there was no extension. The third was in a child, aged six, at Long Framlington, on November 6th. On inspecting, the only unsanitary condition was a downspout, two doors off, deficient. It is probable the child contracted it from children who attended the school and came from Whelope; there, two had it first. Antitoxaine, disinfectants, and isolation were used, and it did not spread any further. All these houses were disin-

fected afterwards. It was necessary to close the schools for these cases and reputed Scarlet Fever. **Erysipelas** was notified in four cases; twice on the leg, once each the hand and the head. Three were in the Rothbury and one in the Long Framlington districts. All were adults, two being males and two females. **Scarlet Fever** broke out at Whisker Shield on May 15th. A boy was away from home and contracted a sore throat with rash. It was not suspected, but no doubt this began the trouble, and in all there were seven cases here. It doubtless led to two others in Elsdon before being recognised; here it was necessary to stop the sale of milk. On inspecting, there was very little to complain of, but the drain from outbuildings was not quite satisfactory and was rectified. Isolation and disinfection were used, and no further extension occurred. Your Surveyor attended to disinfection of these houses, and of the following afterwards. At Long Framlington colliery it occurred on October 7th, in a boy, aged 4, being imported from Newton-on-the-Moor. All care was taken and it did not spread.

Measles occurred in the Lee School district, and also at Rothley Shield and Greenleighton.

Whooping Cough occurred in Netherton School district, and with Influenza, necessitated closing the school.

Phthisis. An Act has this year come into force, under which, cases of this disease occurring in Union Medical Practice, have to be notified to the Medical Officer of Health. He has then to take such steps as are practicable towards the prevention of the spread of the same, issuing instructions regarding this and enquiring into the sanitary surroundings. Also arranging as to disinfection at the time and afterwards. This is carried out by me, printed instructions also sent, and your Board has consented to supply expectoration flasks and disinfectant. The Surveyor attends to the disinfection of the houses under my instructions. The importance of plenty of

fresh air is urged, and isolation as far as practicable. These persons will in future be referred to as Poor Patients. A male, aged 46, was thus notified at Long Framlington, he came from the Alnwick Union· On visiting, certain sanitary defects were pointed out and remedied. Disinfectants and instructions were given. He died there later, and the house was disinfected. At Little Tosson, another Poor Patient was notified. Here the same steps were taken. There was need of better out-office accommodation and sanitary sink and drain to the farm house. She has been sent for a time to a Sanatorium, and was aged 18 years.

Other deaths from Phthisis occurred: two in Rothbury (Rural), one in Alwinton, one in Whittingham, and one in Cambo districts. Instructions as to disinfection were given in all cases where not already carried out. Visitors who died of it were, one at Whittingham and one at Long Framlington in each instance. The places being disinfected.

The **Isolation Hospital** has not been used this year by your Council, but has by the Urban Council for a case of Scarlet Fever which ended the outbreak.

Under the Factory and Workshops Act, there are now twelve on the register, comprising: three dressmakers, four blacksmiths, two tailors, two bootmakers, and one baker. Two new blacksmiths were registered, one at Elsdon—being a shop without dwelling house attached, the other at Whittingham, all complete; also one new bootmaker at Elsdon, all in necessary order. At Thropton, the blacksmith's out-offices are still promised to be put in order.

The **Dairies and Cowsheds.** There is no arrangement for examining cows for tuberculosis in your district. At Whittle, the largest in your district, they have now ceased to carry on the business and send milk to Rothbury. At Long Framlington, the floor of the cowshed has been paved

and drained; another one there still needs this, and he was told to remove pigs from cowshed, which was attended to. At Whitton, cowsheds now in good order, as at Walk Low Hall.

Slaughter Houses exist at Thropton and Long Framlington. These I found tidy and in a sanitary condition. That at Whittingham necessitated a caution. I have not seen any unsound meat, nor has my attention been called to any. Your Board has no special meat inspector.

The **Schools** and Scholars are regularly and systematiclaly inspected by the County Council Medical Officer for schools (Dr. Burrows), and I have inspected the following:—Elsdon, Long Framlington, and Hepple all correct; Whittingham, slight piece of broken rain spout; Lee School, the water supply was not satisfactory, the tank at the head was cleaned out and some of the piping, this has greatly improved matters. At Harbottle, the boys' urinal needed better flushing arrangements and drainage. At Thropton, a good deal is required.

The **Special Districts** attended to by your Inspector and myself were: Whittingham, Sharperton, Charity Hall, Harbottle, Alwinton, and Long Framlington.

At Whittingham, the drain opening into the stream at the west end needs carrying further down and away from the cottages and roadside. The privy midden of Johnson and Gibb needed attention. A portion of the spouting at schools needed mending. Scott's slaughter house was not very tidy and they were cautioned. A new privy midden has been built; one of these was too full and emptied after notice. The blacksmith's premises, etc., were in a sanitary condition. At Eslington West Cottage, the stable and byre needed attention as to drainage.

At SHARPERTON, there was need of a better water supply to Messrs Turnbull's especially. This has since been provided from a spring and brought in an iron pipe. This same farm needs the privy to be shifted from the house end, and proper ash midden provided to a new one. Also better flooring and drainage to the stable and cow byre, and new spouting to same. A proper trapped gully and sink are needed to the house. R. Redhead, the spouting, downspout, and sink need attention; the privy ash midden to be properly covered in. J. Redhead needs a sanitary drain and repairs to ash midden, with outbuildings spouted. G. Robinson needs properly constructed trapped sink, etc., also proper ash midden and privy instead of wood one. Miss Davison needs proper trapped gully and sink, and better ventilation for the privy midden. H. Milburn requires proper privy and ashmidden with better drainage. Sept. Ross requires sink and better drainage, and spouting at back. W. Rogerson requires proper sanitary sink and drain, also privy ash midden.

It would be a great improvement to cover in a part of the roadside gutter.

At HARBOTTLE. Waterloo house needed drainage attended to. H. Collins, a properly constructed privy ash midden. The boys' urinal at the schools needs flushing arrangement and drainage. Covering in of the stream over the road is a great improvement. The water supply needs some better protection from storm water at the head tank. Some correspondence has taken place as to collecting the rent charges. It is hoped this will be amicably adjusted. There is a good supply of water now. Great improvements have been made at Miss Pleindars.

At ALWINTON. Bland's sink was blocked. J. Weddell and others, ash midden was full to overflowing, it was emptied later. Rose and Thistle Inn, the tenants complain that the drain into the burn gets blocked by the too great accumulation in the latter.

Charity Hall, deficient sink top has been rectified. Repairs being needed to the privy midden.

At Long Framlington. At length the Onstead has been put into sanitary condition, proper sinks and drainage have been provided, together with privy middens. At the Old Colliery Cottages, proper privy middens also have been erected. Jos. Anderson's, cow byre needs flooring, drainage, light and ventilation. He was told to take the pigs out of this. The drainage opens out at roadside. C. Turnbull's, privy joins Sewell's house, it needs cementing out, and spouted to turn water away; sink top needs mending. Sewell's house was built up against this privy, complaint is made of its injuring his house; this house (Sewell's) needs proper sink and drainage. R. Lamb, needs properly constructed privy, ash midden. Washer needs mending in tap, and rain spout at back drained away. Proudlock's, cow byre has been cemented and drained; the stable needs the same. The other cow byres were kept tidy. The Schools were in sanitary condition. The water supply is good, but two washers near road were defective. Sewerage also appears good. Two very small new cottages have been built, containing only one room. each.

The Notification of Births Act, is not in force here.

The following have also been provided, viz:—At Alnham, farm house, good sanitary drains. At Lee Sidings and Walk Low Hall, new drainage and other sanitary improvements. Boring operations are going on with a view to water supplies at Blagdon Burn, Gusset, ahd Hesleyhurst. Whittingham. proper trapped gullies at Castle Inn. Hudson, new privy and ash pit; Wm Gibb and Johnston, privy cemented and improved. Weatheritt, new gully and drain at cottage. Thrunton Low Field, new drains and trapped sinks to farm house. Bridge of Aln, repairs to drains and urinal to Inn. Whittingham Grange, new water supply to the cottages. At Whitton,

the sewer outlet has been drained away, and two cottages put into sanitary order that were closed. Rothley Shiels, improvements have been made to the privy midden and spouting.

The following are still required, besides the above mentioned, viz. :—Elsdon Checkgate, new properly constructed privy and ash midden. Little Tosson, sanitary sink and drain to the farm house, new privy midden to the Cottages out of sight of public road.

Your Surveyor has given much time to the above.

I am indebted to Mr. Bertram, of Cragside, for again furnishing me with the following table of rainfall and sunshine during the year 1909. This is taken at Cragside, the site of observation being 405 feet above the sea level. There fell, during

JANUARY	1 58 inches
FEBRUARY	3·00
MARCH	6·65
APRIL	3·46
MAY	1·90
JUNE	2·87
JULY	2·41
AUGUST	3·05
SEPTEMBER	2·22
OCTOBER	3·07
NOVEMBER	0 74
DECEMBER	4·19
	35·14

Thus 35·14 inches fell, as against 30·96 of the year before, whilst your average has been about 38·0 inches. There were 173 wet days. Most rain fell in March, viz., 6·65 inches. The hours of sunshine were 1,520, against 1,414 of the year before; in May there were 233, but only 51 in December.

Your obedient servant,

F. BARROW,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during the year 1909 in the Rothbury (Rural) District.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in whole District.						Total Cases notified in each Locality.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					Rothbury (Rural part of Parish).	Alwinton.	Whittingham.	Longframlington.	Alnham and Brinkburn.	Cambo and Elsdon.	Long Horsley and Netherwitton.
		1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards							
Diphtheria ...	8	2	5		1				7	1			
Erysipelas ...	4			1	2	1	3			1			
Scarlet Fever ...	9	1	6	2						1		8	
*Phithisis (P) ...	2			1	1		1			1			
Totals ...	23	3	11	4	4	1	4	...	7	4	...	8	...

Isolation Hospital near Whitton, in Rural area of Rothbury, provided by Rural and Urban Authorities.

Total available beds—12. Nnmber of diseases that can be concurrently treated—2 to 3.

* Poor Law Patients.

TABLE OF CAUSES OF, AND AGES, AT DEATH, during Year 1909, in Rothbury (Rural) District.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined ages.							Deaths in Localities (at all ages).							
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Rothbury Parish (Rural).	Alwinton.	Whittingham.	Long Framlington.	Alnham and Brinkburn.	Cambo and Elsdon.	Long Horsley and Netherwitton.	Deaths of Non-Residents
Epidemic influenza ...	2						2		1				1		
Gastritis	2		1			1						2			
Phthisis (Pul Tuberculosis)	5			1		3	1	2	1	1			1		2
Other tubercular diseases	1			1						1					
Cancer, malignant disease	6					2	4	2	2			1	1		
Bronchitis	3	1					2		1	1			1		
Premature birth	3	3										2		1	
Heart diseases	7					4	3	5		1	1				1
Accidents	2					2						1		1	1
Suicides	1					1			1						
Apoplexy	5					1	4	1	2	2					
Debility at birth															
Senile decay...	10						10	4	3	2	1				
All other causes	7		2	1	1		3	2		2	1	1	1		1
All causes	54	4	3	3	1	14	29	16	11	10	3	7	5	2	5

TABLE OF INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1909.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks	Total Under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	8-9 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes (Certified)	3			3			1	4
,, (Uncertified)	0			0				0
Whooping Cough								
Enteritis								
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh								
Premature Birth	3			3				3
Atrophy, Debility Marasmus								
Meningitis								
Convulsions								
Bronchitis							1	1
Totals ...	3			3			1	4

District of Rothbury (Rural).

Population estimated to middle of 1909, 4,780

96 Births in the year { legitimate, 92. / illegitimate, 4.

Deaths { legitimate, 4. / illegitimate, 0.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 54.

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS

In the Rothbury (Rural) District.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Deaths under 1 Year of age.		Deaths at all ages. Total.		Total Deaths in Public Institutions in District.	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in District.	Deaths at all ages. Nett.	
		Number.	*Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Number.	*Rate.			Number.	*Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1891	4791										
1899	4730	114	23·5	10	88·0	60	12·26	...	1	59	12·0
1900	4710	115	24·4	16	139 1	95	19·8	...	6	89	18·6
1901	4690	96	20·4	11	114·6	67	14 3	...	3	64	13·6
†1902	4770	99	20·9	10	101 0	64	13·4	...	5	59	12·3
1903	4780	133	27 8	12	90·2	69	14·4	...	4	65	13·6
1904	4820	111	23·1	10	90.9	60	12 5	...	4	56	11·6
1905	4855	114	22 4	4	34·8	62	12·8	..	...	62	12·8
1906	4915	135	27·5	10	74·0	67	13·6	...	3	64	13·0
‡1907	4900	100	20 3	9	90 0	65	13·3	1	...	65	13·3
‡1908	4830	100	20·8	11	110·0	64	13·2	...	3	61	12·6
Averages for years 1899-1908.	4800	111	21·4	10	90 0	67	13·9	...	3	64	13·3
1909	4780	96	20·1	4	41·6	59	12 3	...	5	54	11·3

* Rates in columns 4, 8, and 12 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

† Waterworks started ‡ Men leaving the same.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) ...	166,959
Total Population at all ages (1901)	4,689
Number of inhabited houses	1,041
Average number of persons per house	4·5

TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS OF SEPARATE LOCALITIES IN 1909 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Names of Localities.	ROTHBURY (Rural part of Parish).				ALWINTON				WHITTINGHAM.				LONGFRAMLINGTON				ALNHAM AND BRINKBURN				CAMBO AND ELSDON.				LONGHORSLEY AND NETHERWITTON			
Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1891	1358				1034				879				450				365				522				282			
1899	1284	32	15	4	910	14	5	1	805	22	18	3	465	15	9	..	363	8	4	1	555	16	6	1	340	7	2	.
1900	1275	23	28	3	895	29	17	4	795	14	11	2	467	10	11	2	363	7	9	1	560	22	9	5	350	10	4	..
1901	1266	28	23	4	880	15	10	2	787	13	10	2	469	14	10	1	362	5	3	1	534	10	5	1	361	11	5	.
1902	‡1350	29	19	4	870	16	11	1	780	18	7	1	470	8	13	2	360	2	2	..	565	17	6	2	365	9	1	.
1903	1380	39	22	6	860	22	6	2	770	22	10	..	470	15	10	1	360	5	5	..	570	18	8	3	370	12	4	..
1904	1420	42	19	3	860	11	8	..	770	10	10	1	470	11	9	3	360	6	2	..	570	10	5	2	370	15	3	1
1905	1420	32	17	2	860	16	18	1	770	18	7	..	470	8	7	..	365	9	3	..	570	17	8	1	‡400	14	2	..
1906	1450	44	16	6	860	17	14	1	770	14	15	..	480	15	7	1	365	7	3	..	570	19	6	1	420	19	3	1
1907	1430	32	18	0	860	15	20	2	770	15	4	..	480	8	7	1	365	9	3	1	570	9	10	4	420	15	3	1
1908	*1350	18	24	3	860	26	7	2	780	16	11	1	490	9	6	..	370	10	1	1	570	7	8	..	‖410	14	6	4
Averages of Years 1899 to 1908	1360	31	20	3·5	870	18	11	1·5	780	16	10	1	475	11	9	1	365	7	3·5	0·5	565	14	7	2	380	12	3	1
1909	1340	22	16	0	870	13	11	1	780	16	10	0	490	9	3	..	370	12	7	2	580	14	5	..	400	10	3	1

‡ Waterworks started. * Some Waterworks men leaving. † Extension of Waterworks. ‖ Being removed.